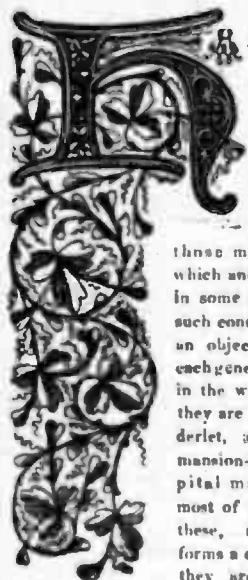


The Builder.

No. XXVIII.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1844.



HAVING dis-
cussed at some
length the more
minute beauties
of London and
its environs, we
must now make
a few observa-
tions relative to
these mansion-houses
which anciently did, and,
in some cases, still form
such conspicuous sub-
urban objects. These are
each generally designated,
in the writings by which
they are held or are un-
derlet, as "the capital
mansion-house," and ca-
pital mansion-houses
most of them were. In
these, red brickwork
forms a constituent part;
they are replete with

carvings, both within and without; around their eaves is mostly to be found a carved oaken Corinthian modillion cornice, while many stone edifices of the neighbour-
hood have gone to decay, still remains sound, having escaped rot and fire. The fronts of such mansion-houses usually contain quaint carvings in brickwork, stone, or wood, and frequently all these materials combined. There are many fine specimens of window-dressings still extant, to be found amid this description of buildings; their doorways were almost invariably beautiful, and sometimes their chimneys were magnificent. Such man-
sions usually contained court-yards, or at least halls paved with marble, with such excellence of workmanship as no jointing to be discover-
able except from diversity of colour; and around their courts frequently exist covered colon-
nades. Floors of marquetry, superbly carved chimney-pieces, curious rich plastering, and carved doors and window shutters formed some of their most prominent features. Most of these houses were built by the rich merchants of London between the early parts respectively of the reigns of Charles II. and George II.; after then, house architecture grew more formal, and exhibiting less invention, it gradually lost its carvings. The doorways and windows were generally mere copies from one and the same source, and becoming, as it was termed, more regular, they ceased to be so interesting. Perhaps more than half this description of fine dwellings have ceased to be occupied by the class that built them, and are now occupied, at moderate rents, as schools and private lunatic asylums. All the outskirts and villages of London, in fact all the towns of England, contain many such houses, and they are to be found in all the places where fine doorways are to be met with; they generally had lofty apartments and an unnecessary abundance of window-shutters; not infrequently one superb staircase of oak or mahogany; and where they were grouped architecturally with their office-buildings, often presented a splendid appearance. This class of mansions has given way to the modern plain villa, with its roof decorated with zinc guttering, and its chimneys

with zinc tubes. Waltham-stow, Enfield, Camberwell, and Greenwich contain fine spec-
imens. The magnificent pride of the iron-work, wrought and beaten into the forms of leaves, flowers, and armorial charges and cyphers, in the gates leading up to these mansions is in-
comparable; in fact, the collection of the patterns of such ancient iron-work would be a good undertaking. Where such mansions still remain, we think they should be carefully upheld, and if any slight alterations should be required to suit them to modern ideas of com-
fort, such might be effected without direct mutilation. But we think something like this description of building ought to be restored, the principal component materials of which might be of white brick, stone, and red brick; those unaccustomed to the endeavour, know not what can be produced in brickwork alone.

b.

ELECTION OF SURVEYOR TO THE DISTRICT OF ROTHERHITHE AND HATCHAM.

(December 16, 1844.)

Elected—	No. of Votes.
George Allen	27
Henry Clatton	16

THE LATE ACCIDENTS AT OLDHAM AND NORTHLEACH.

THE Queen has been pleased to appoint Sir Henry Thomas De la Beche, Knt., and Thomas Cubitt, Esq., to be her Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into the causes of the falling of a cotton mill, at Oldham, and as to the failure of part of the prison at Northleach.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

THE second ordinary general meeting of the season was held on Monday evening last, Mr. Papworth in the chair. Several valuable donations were announced to have been re-
ceived, and were laid on the table. James Walker, Esq., F.R.S., was elected an honorary member of the institute, and Mr. John Whicheford, jun., of Maidstone, was elected an associate.

A model and drawings were exhibited illustrative of the removal of the lighthouse at Sunderland, by Mr. Murray; and an abstract of a paper that had been presented to the Institution of Civil Engineers on the subject was read by one of the honorary secretaries. This extraordinary work was undertaken in consequence of the necessity that arose for lengthening the pier. A wooden cradle was fixed underneath the building, which weighs three hundred and thirty tons, and it was then moved on a temporary wooden railway a distance of seven hundred and seventy feet. The work was the more difficult in conse-
quence of an angle round which the lighthouse had to be moved, and it had to be elevated nearly two feet above the level it previously occupied. The far greater part of the distance was accomplished in thirteen hours, after all the preparations had been completed. The lighthouse did not deviate in the least from the perpendicular during the removal, and the gas lights were kept burning all the time. The thanks of the meeting were voted to Charles Manby, Esq., secretary to the Institution of Civil Engineers, for communicating the abstract, and sending the models and drawings.

A very interesting paper, describing some remarkable tombs in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, near Jerusalem, was read by Mr. J. J. Scoles. The tombs more particularly noticed were the pillar of Absalom and the tomb of Zechariah. The latter is cut entirely out of the solid rock. It consists of a square base, decorated with Ionic columns, and has a pyramid on the top. The whole mass is supposed to be solid; it is the height of the surrounding rock from which it has been excavated, and is separated from it by a space of ten feet. The pillar of Absalom is near to the tomb, and is also partially cut out of the rock, but on the solid square base there is erected a conical top, the interior of which is hollow. Near to these ancient monuments is the cemetery within which the apostles are supposed to have re-
tired during Christ's agony on the mount. Absalom's pillar and Zechariah's tomb have

given rise to much speculation respecting the periods of their erection. Some travellers have ascribed them to the periods in which the individuals whose names they bear lived, but Mr. Scoles is of opinion that they are of much more recent dates, and from the mixed styles of architecture they exhibit, he conceives them to have been constructed by the Romans about the time of Augustus: being situated in the deep valley of Jehoshaphat, that they have escaped destruction during the many sieges Jerusalem has endured. At the entrance of the cemetery there are four columns, and the interior consists of many chambers exca-
vated in the rock. The paper was received with much applause, and the thanks of the meeting were cordially given to Mr. Scoles for his description of these interesting monu-
ments. The meeting then adjourned till the 13th of January.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.

ON Tuesday, the 10th inst., being the seventy-sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Academy of Arts, a general assembly of the Academicians was held at their apart-
ments in Trafalgar-square, when the following among numerous other premiums were awarded:—

To Mr. George Low, for the best drawings of the Church of St. Mary, Woolnoth, the silver medal.

To Mr. William Wood Deane, for the next best drawings of the Church of St. Mary, Woolnoth, the silver medal.

Sir M. A. Shee, the President, complimented the students generally, on the ability and diligence displayed; such indeed was the merit of the copies in painting and in architec-
tural drawing, that two medals instead of one had been awarded in each class; but he regretted to add that in the other classes a proper zeal had not been manifested.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

LETTER III.

BY WILLOUGHBY WILTON.

To begin, where we left off in our last letter, with the "First Annual Report of the London and Westminster Provident Association and Savings' Fund," in order not to mislead our readers, or be misled by DATA, we shall again repeat the synopsis of this report, on which it is our purpose to discourse.

"The number of members who have joined the association since its establishment amounts to 315, amongst whom, 620½ shares have been subscribed for; from the above, 32 shares have become forfeited, and 56½ shares have been transferred, by which the number of members have been reduced by 43, leaving the association at present to consist of 272 members, holding 788½ shares."

From this it appears that some members have forfeited their shares; or, in other words, whatever moneys they might have paid thereon. These unfortunate speculators would not have lost their money had it been deposited in a Savings' Bank: but on the contrary would have received it back with interest after the rate of more than 3½ per cent. per annum: for at the time this society published its report, the interest on deposits in the Savings' Banks had not been reduced by the Legislature. However, such is the force of circumstances upon improvident or misdirected members of your building so-
cieties.

Again, "56½ shares have been transferred," which shows either the inability of the mem-
bers holding them to continue their subscrip-
tions, or an acquisition of good sense which had dictated a wiser course of proceeding, and some more profitable and safer channel of investment. Perhaps they had learned to follow the precept, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." Exodus xiii., 2.

There lies no mean between these hypothe-
tical inferences: either may be right, both will scarcely be wrong.

But, still, with a reduction of 43 members, the association consisted of 272 members holding 788½ shares, or 2½ shares a piece at the time the report was promulgated.

"Up to the present time 102½ shares have been advanced to members upon mortgage,